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Chief, FBIB

20 October 1948

Chief, Mediterranean Bureau, FBIS

Official Status of FBIS and American Personnel thereof in Cyprus

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2. The following examples are cited:

(a) Local taxation of United States Government property: The question of whether the United States Government will be expected to pay local property taxes on its land and buildings at the monitoring station has not yet been settled. The local government referred the question to London and received a reply from the Secretary of State for the Colonies dated 4 June 1948 which stated " * * * there is nothing in the 'reciprocity agreement' which directly or indirectly concerns exemption from taxes. The agreement is concerned with technical monitoring and communication, rather than administration matters. However, it is further stated that it is likely that the American authorities will before long bring their Monitoring Unit in Cyprus into conformity with other similar units elsewhere, so that its property will be held in the name of the State Department and will be entitled to the normal diplomatic privileges, including tax immunity." Nothing further has been heard on this matter locally.

ROGER G. SEELY

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW